

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Call to Order:** Chair Chas Vincent, on February 20, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 303 Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Chas Vincent, Chair (R)  
Sen. Jeffrey W. Welborn, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Duane Ankney (R)  
Sen. Dick Barrett (D)  
Sen. Pat Connell (R)  
Sen. Jennifer Fielder (R)  
Sen. Jedediah Hinkle (R)  
Sen. Mary McNally (D)  
Sen. Mike Phillips (D)  
Sen. JP Pomnichowski (D)  
Sen. Tom Richmond (R)

**Members Excused:**

Sen. Jill Cohenour (D)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Pat Christian, Committee Secretary  
Hope Stockwell, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 281, 2/17/2017; SB 284, 2/17/2017; SR 21, 2/10/2017; SR 20, 2/8/2017

00:01:05 Vice Chair Welborn assumed the role as chair.

**HEARING ON SR 21**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:32 Sen. Chas Vincent (R), SD 1, opened the hearing on SR 21, Confirm Governor appointee for Director of Dept. of Environmental Quality.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:02:13 Alan Olson, Montana Petroleum Association  
00:03:41 Tom Livers, director, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)  
00:11:12 Tim Burton, executive director, Montana League of Cities and Towns  
00:13:54 Alan Haight, Northern Plains Resource Council  
00:14:33 Jeff Wivholm, president, Montana Association of Conservation Districts

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:15:55 Sen. Hinkle  
00:16:28 Mr. Livers, DEQ  
00:20:00 Sen. Fielder  
00:21:28 Mr. Livers  
00:24:17 Sen. Fielder  
00:24:29 Mr. Livers  
00:25:17 Sen. Fielder  
00:26:05 Mr. Livers

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:26:20 Sen. Vincent

**HEARING ON SR 20**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:28:12 Sen. Chas Vincent (R), SD 1, opened the hearing on SR 20, Confirm Governor appointee for Director, Dept. of Nat Resources and Conservation.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:28:39 John Tubbs, director, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)  
00:34:56 Chelcie Cargill, Montana Farm Bureau Federation, and Montana Stockgrowers Association  
00:36:42 Alan Olson, Montana Petroleum Association

00:38:49 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association  
00:40:26 Mark Aagenes, The Nature Conservancy  
00:42:20 Jane Holzer, Montana Soil Control Association  
00:43:34 Jeff Wivholm, president, Montana Association of Conservation Districts

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:44:49 Sen. Ankney

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:46:45 Sen. Vincent

**HEARING ON SB 281**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:48:27 Sen. Chas Vincent (R), SD 1, opened the hearing on SB 281, Revise use of fire suppression account funds.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:52:43 Julia Altemus, Montana Wood Products Association  
00:57:03 Chelcie Cargill, Montana Farm Bureau Federation, Montana Wool Growers Association

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:59:27 Bob Harrington, Forestry Division administrator, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:04:48 Sen. Connell  
01:05:43 Sen. Vincent  
01:05:52 Sen. Connell  
01:06:15 Sen. Vincent  
01:06:29 Sen. Pomnichowski  
01:06:55 Sen. Vincent  
01:08:02 Sen. Pomnichowski  
01:08:18 Sen. Vincent  
01:08:48 Sen. Pomnichowski  
01:09:13 Sen. Vincent  
01:09:58 Sen. Phillips

01:10:34 Sen. Vincent  
01:10:52 Sen. Phillips  
01:11:31 Sen. Vincent  
01:12:13 Sen. Phillips  
01:12:45 Sen. Vincent  
01:13:05 Sen. Ankney  
01:13:41 Sen. Vincent  
01:13:46 Sen. Ankney  
01:13:55 Sen. Vincent  
01:14:11 Sen. Ankney  
01:14:37 Sen. Vincent  
01:14:46 Sen. Fielder  
01:15:14 Sen. Vincent  
01:15:29 Sen. Fielder  
01:15:46 Sen. Vincent  
01:15:52 Sen. Fielder  
01:16:36 Sen. Vincent

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:16:56 Sen. Vincent  
01:18:52 Chair Vincent resumed the role as chair

**HEARING ON SB 284**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:19:08 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SB 284, generally revise laws related to sage grouse.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:22:00 Dave Galt, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)  
01:25:31 Alan Olson, Montana Petroleum Association  
01:27:00 Gary Wiens, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association  
01:27:51 Liv Stavick, Montana Farm Bureau Federation, Montana Stockgrowers Association, Montana Wool Growers Association  
01:28:27 Tammy Johnson, executive director, Montana Mining Association  
01:29:08 Mark Baker, Denbury Resources Inc.  
01:30:36 John Tubbs, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)  
01:33:28 Glenn Marx, executive director, Montana Association of Land Trusts (MALT)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:43:31 Sen. Pomnichowski

01:45:17 Mr. Tubbs, DNRC  
01:46:31 Sen. Pomnichowski  
01:46:53 Sen. Lang  
01:47:09 Sen. Connell  
01:48:52 Mr. Marx, MALT  
01:49:11 Sen. Connell  
01:49:50 Mr. Marx  
01:51:34 Sen. Connell  
01:52:15 Sen. Lang  
01:52:22 Chair. Vincent  
01:53:08 Mr. Marx  
01:53:57 Chair Vincent  
01:54:20 Mr. Galt, MPA  
01:55:38 Chair Vincent  
01:55:54 Mr. Galt  
01:56:00 Chair Vincent

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:56:14 Sen. Lang

**Committee Business:**

01:57:07 Chair Vincent

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 5:01 PM

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Pat Christian, Secretary

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**Additional Document**

Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([nas37aad.pdf](#))**